

**Exhibit A - Executive Summary**

State of Illinois

ILExhibitAExecSummary.pdf

## **Illinois Storm Ready – Weather or Not**

### ***Collaborating Solutions for Tomorrow's Climate***

This Illinois Storm Ready – Weather or Not application highlights opportunities for HUD to encourage and support resilience-building strategies across 10 Illinois target areas that will focus on vulnerable populations and engage local residents, businesses, and a variety of other stakeholders to deliver innovative, cost-effective, realistic, and implementable multiple benefits solutions to systemic problems and create a lasting resiliency legacy in Illinois.

As explained in the application, the state of Illinois (State) through its Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR), intends to pursue opportunities for resilient disaster recovery in Alexander County, Brookport, Bureau County, Carbondale, Grundy County, LaSalle County, Marshall County, Roanoke, Ullin, and Washington, Illinois.

While susceptible to tornados, blizzards, ice storms and earthquakes, the most widespread, repetitive, and significant risks to Illinois are flooding and "urban flooding." Urban flooding is caused by rainfall overwhelming the capacity of drainage systems, such as storm sewers and includes (i) situations in which stormwater enters buildings through windows, doors, or other openings, (ii) water backup through sewer pipes or other fixtures, (iii) seepage through walls and floors, and (iv) the accumulation of water on property or public rights-of-way. This type of flooding is a common source of impact to vulnerable populations. The devastating economic, environmental, and social tolls from chronic and repetitive flooding stem from vulnerabilities across our social, natural, and built systems.

To improve the health and vitality of Illinois communities, the State, has built partnerships with other planning commissions, organizations, and community partners across the state to address unmet disaster needs, implement innovative multi-benefit storm ready resiliency

projects that improve the quality of life for families in these communities, and create additional examples of resiliency success stories to educate and inspire other communities. Similarly, the City of Chicago, Cook County, DuPage County, and the State have created a multi-jurisdictional, bipartisan partnership to build resilience in Northeastern Illinois. These Partnerships represents a diverse network of public, non-profit, and private partners and were founded on the principle that collaboration is essential for achieving long-term resilience.

In addition to these federal, state and community collaborated storm ready resiliency projects in target communities, the State IDNR/OWR and a new state level resiliency team, intends to; 1) develop a statewide GIS data of structural flood risk assessments of every structure in or near the mapped floodplains of Illinois to help identify critical need, prioritize mitigation actions and update local hazard mitigation plans; 2) implement urban flood risk reduction alternatives, including green infrastructure measures recommended in the state's forthcoming Urban Flood Awareness Report (June 2015) and/or measures successfully developed by our other regional partners; 3) update statewide rainfall frequency data to reflect not only additional rainfall gage data but climate change factors; and 4) promote storm ready resiliency education statewide.

Through a series of specific pilots, the state, and the state as part of the Partnership, will demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative interventions, from on-the-ground projects to new finance mechanisms and policies. Successful interventions will be transferred to communities across the state, as Illinois strives to become a state where natural events are not natural disasters.